

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hooper; Duwayne et al. This is a new ground of rejection. As to claim 1 and other independent claims, it is alleged that the Hooper reference teaches logic circuitry that is operative to perform a first more preferred SID acquisition sequence and then a second more preferred SID acquisition sequence that includes repeatedly attempting acquisition of the at least one more preferred stored SID element using a same frequency during the second more preferred SID acquisition sequence. As claimed (see claim 1), a specific more preferred SID acquisition sequence and another more preferred SID acquisition sequence are performed. During the second more preferred SID acquisition sequence the same frequency is used to attempt acquisition of the at least one more preferred stored SID element. Applicants respectfully submit that Hooper does not teach or suggest the claimed multiple more preferred SID acquisition sequence operation that utilizes the same frequency to acquire the more preferred stored SID element during both the first and second more preferred SID acquisition sequence. Instead, it appears that Hooper teaches a conventional SID acquisition sequence technique that acquires a less preferred stored SID element using another frequency.

The cited portion, namely col. 12, ln. 31 – col. 13, ln. 15 actually do no refer to any multiple more preferred (Hooper appears to use the word “most preferred”) SID acquisition sequence operation. Instead, the cited portion merely refers to designating multiple cellular systems owned by or contracted by a service provider as commonly owned systems as higher priorities than those systems that are not owned by the same service provider. This is conventional most preferred to lesser preferred listing of systems. This cited portion does not go into detail as to frequency use and SID acquisition sequence operation.

In reviewing other portions of Hooper, Hooper appears to describe SID acquisition sequence operations that are similar to prior art systems and are different from those claimed. For example, as stated in col. 5, lns. 20-45 as well as col. 9, lns. 1-60 and referring also to FIG. 2, a single most preferred or highest ranking acquisition sequence is performed and if the frequency cannot be acquired for the highest ranking SID in the list, whatever the acquired system ID that is acquired is compared to the remaining lesser preferred systems on the list. If the lesser preferred SID identification information matches information for one of the lesser preferred systems on the list, the scan frequency and the acquired system identification information is stored in memory subsystem and the mobile “determines if the entire frequency range has been scanned for additional lesser preferred systems on the list”. As such, Hooper merely describes that if a more preferred SID acquisition sequence is unsuccessful, then other frequencies are then scanned. Hooper does not attempt to acquire the most preferred SID or the more preferred SID as claimed multiple times as claimed as part of two different more preferred SID acquisition sequence operations.

Among other advantages, claimed operation improves the acquisition of and search for a more preferred stored SID element stored in the roaming list since systems such as those of Hooper typically scan for home system only once. In addition, Hooper does not appear to describe any second more preferred SID acquisition sequence but instead jumps from a most preferred to a lesser preferred if the most preferred system is not acquired upon the initial scan. Moreover, among other advantages, since the second more preferred SID acquisition sequence scans more often for the more preferred system than in conventional roaming algorithms, the probability of acquiring at least one more preferred stored SID element increases. In one example, the more preferred system is a home system. Other advantages will be recognized by those of ordinary skill in the art.

As to claims 6, 8, 10, 14 and 19, Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above with respect to claim 1 and as such, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter. For example, but not by way of limitation, the office action alleges that step 78 of FIG. 2 teaches that the more preferred stored SID element that is attempted to be acquired in a second more preferred SID acquisition sequence defines the home system. However, in connection with claim 1, the more preferred stored SID element is actually attempted to be acquired repeated times as part of two more preferred SID acquisition sequences. The operation of step 78 of FIG. 2 of Hooper merely indicates that the mobile scans for a first frequency that is believed to be the home frequency as shown in block 78 if it is the home system, the home system is selected. If it is not the home system, the mobile terminal determines that it is “roaming”. The roaming mobile terminal will “initiate selection of a preferred system other than its home system at step 84” (see col. 8, lns. 44-46) – hence a different frequency. To accommodate a failure of the first time to acquire a more preferred system, a default system selection is used – hence a different frequency. (See col. 8, lns. 47-67). Accordingly, the cited portion and other portions teach a different system by that claimed by Applicants.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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